

If the sanctions the U.S. imposed on Iraq are any precedent, we know that sanctions are not an effective tool in promoting or supporting domestic democracy movements. We also know that those sanctions did not prevent an unnecessary and wasteful war with Iraq.

In effect, the expansion of the broad and indiscriminate sanctions included in this legislation hurts our ability to negotiate with Iran and imposes long-term detrimental harm on the Iranian people. It detracts from the real human rights abuses currently occurring in Iran by allowing the regime to deflect blame on the United States and its allies.

SUPPORTING REGIME CHANGE AND TYING THE
PRESIDENT'S HANDS

Section 217 in this bill effectively states that sanctions on Iran's central bank would not be lifted unless there is regime change. It does this by creating new requirements for the termination of sanctions that are dependent on the cessation of the Central Bank's financing of the Revolutionary Guard. Section 205 imposes new restrictions on the President's ability to waive certain sanctions. Collectively, these provisions have moved the goal post from negotiations over Iran's nuclear enrichment program to regime change. The U.S. record on successful regime changes is not impressive.

The National Iranian American Council has pointed out that this legislation "imposes collective punishment on the Iranian people by seeking to destroy the Iranian economy. The goal is to bankrupt Iran, and cause hyperinflation by destroying the value of Iran's currency, the rial."

If your goal is to punish the Iranian people, undermine their brave efforts to push for democracy, and thwart our sensitive and critical negotiations, then support this bill. If not, I urge you to join me in opposing this legislation.

SYRIA SANCTIONS INCLUDED IN THIS LEGISLATION

This legislation also requires the President to impose sanctions on actors that are responsible for or complicit in certain human rights abuses in Syria.

This legislation fails to acknowledge that the United States and a number of our allies are actively participating in stoking the violence on the ground, including through the arming and support of Syrian rebel groups. Divisions and in-fighting within the various militias operating on the ground are already occurring. If our own intelligence agencies are unable to fully grasp what is transpiring on the ground in Syria, we can be sure that these targeted sanctions will overlook other non-state actors that are participating in human rights abuses.

Recent reports also indicate that the instability and chaos in Syria has opened the door for fundamentalist groups to move in, including Al Qaeda. This threatens stability in the region as a whole and U.S. allies in the region, including Israel.

We can all agree that the violence in Syria must end. But in order to do that, supporters on both sides of the conflict must cease providing either side with the tools to continue this bloody conflict.

WELCOMING NAYYAR IMAM

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, today's opening prayer was delivered by Nayyar Imam from Mt. Sinai, New York—in my district on Long Island.

I am honored to welcome Nayyar to the House as a distinguished representative of Long Island's Muslim-American community.

I also welcome his wife of 24 years, Rizwana, and their son, Ahmer, who attends Baruch College, City University of New York, who are joining us from the gallery.

I am especially pleased that Nayyar was able to make the trip during Ramadan, the holy month of fasting and spiritual renewal.

I have known him for ten years—as a trustee of his mosque in Selden, New York and as a leading authority of Islamic culture across Long Island. He also serves the Islamic Association of Long Island and the Suffolk County Commission on Human Rights.

As the first Muslim-American chaplain of the Suffolk County Police Department, Nayyar has delivered the benedictions at its memorial services. He has also delivered opening prayers of the Suffolk County legislature.

I commend him for his service to my district and Long Island, as well as for the spiritual leadership he provides my constituents.

I thank Nayyar Imam and his family for joining us to open the chamber with today's prayer.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN THE U.S.

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the problem of human trafficking. Every day all over our country, vulnerable women, and children and even men are stolen away from their communities and forced into work to line the pockets of criminals. Their stories and situations are different, but one common denominator remains: they are moved away, they are forced to work, their wages are stolen, and they are unable to leave. They are modern day slaves.

Under the federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act, human trafficking is defined as the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person to perform labor or a commercial sex act through force, fraud, or coercion. You can find human trafficking victims everywhere. They are working in restaurants; nail salons; as maids and nannies; on farms; in factories; in brothels, on the street, and as online escorts—they exist in any industry where one's work and freedom can be stolen from them.

The Justice Department supports task forces dedicated to investigating human trafficking cases. Between 2008 and 2010, these task forces rescued 527 confirmed human trafficking victims. Some of the people rescued were sex trafficking victims, others were labor trafficking victims. But the statistics are telling. The majority of trafficking victims are women:

women made up 98 percent of sex trafficking victims and 68 percent of labor trafficking victims. The traffickers were overwhelmingly (81 percent) male. Most of the victims were under the age of 25. With sex trafficking, most of the victims were U.S. citizens, while labor trafficking largely affected undocumented individuals. But this data just scratches the surface of the problem that is out there, within our own borders.

Hundreds of thousands of trafficking victims are exploited every year in the United States. The Polaris Project estimates that there are 100,000 child sex trafficking victims in the U.S. alone each year. This figure came into clear focus in my hometown of Toledo, Ohio back in 2005, when a child prostitution ring in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania was broken up. The sting involved 177 girls, 77 of whom were from Toledo. One was a ten year old girl. They had all been stolen away from their family, from their community, and forced into prostitution in a city over 400 miles away. That discovery led to the discovery of many other girls from Toledo who had fallen victim to sex trafficking.

The problem is big, but progress is being made. One state representative from Toledo has worked tirelessly to address this issue at the state level. Representative Teresa Fedor recently saw her signature legislation signed into law. The legislation, Ohio's "Safe Harbor" law, ensures that children who have been trafficked are treated as victims and not charged with violations like solicitation. The law also increases the penalties faced by adult traffickers and helps victims access services to help return to society. Prior to the signing of this law, Representative Fedor passed a law to create a human trafficking charge that could be added to related crimes to increase the severity of the sentence.

The good work that Representative Fedor has done will undoubtedly help victims of trafficking in Ohio. I would like to ask unanimous consent to include an article from the Toledo Blade detailing her work in this area.

Human trafficking will remain a scourge on our society until we can assure that no human being is turned into a slave. I applaud the steps that have been taken so far, but also recognize that much more needs to be done.

[From the toledoBlade.com, July 31, 2012]

FEDOR FOUND VOICE IN HUMAN-TRAFFIC
BATTLE

(By Jim Provanco)

COLUMBUS.—“Without her, we wouldn't have a voice,” a former human-trafficking victim recently said of Rep. Teresa Fedor.

But one might also say that it was this victim and others like her who gave the Democratic lawmaker from Toledo her voice.

The former elementary school teacher and former Air Force staff sergeant has without a doubt experienced political success. She'd been in the Ohio House only two years before Lucas County voters promoted her to the Senate in 2002. In 2010, when term limits forced her out of the chamber, they sent her back to the House. She faces no Republican opposition for re-election this year.

But making legislative gains proved more elusive.

An unscientific poll in the summer of 2007 by Columbus Monthly magazine of 100 lawmakers, lobbyists, and players in Gov. Ted Strickland's administration, and other Statehouse insiders ranked her among the least effective and politically savvy of state lawmakers.

Her colleagues in the Senate Democratic Caucus, a very small club, dumped her as